

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 AF-06

IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EA-07

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SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /101 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4263

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 05423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: BG PIRES VELOSO HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO TAKE CHARGE OF
THE NOTERN MILITARY REGION REPLCING LEFT-LEANING BG CORVACHO.
TWO RADIO STATIONS IN NORTH WERE ATTACKED ON SEPT. 14. THREE
COMMUNIST-INSPIRED RALLIES PLANNED DURING COMING WEEK WILL FEATURE
REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC WHILE PARTY ITSELF REEVALUATES ITS POSITION.
PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 27-28, WILL LIKELY
FOCUS

UPON STRUGGLE FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP BETWEEN FACTIONS LED BY SA
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CARNEIRO AND EMIDIO GUERREIRO. SPINOLA RETURNED TO RIO SEPT 13.

TAPES OF INTERNAL AFM DISCUSSIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN STOLEN FROM J-5 OFFICES, INTRODUCING ANOTHER ELEMENT OF POTENTIAL INTIMIDATION INTO POLITICAL PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. PIRES VELOSO TAKES CHARGE: BG ANTONIO PIRES VELOSO, NAMED SEPTEMBER 12 TO REPLACE LEFTIST-LEANING BG EURICO CORVACHO AS COMMANDER OF PORTUGAL'S NORTHERN MILITARY REGION, HAS LOST LITTLE TIME IN TAKING CHARGE. THOUGH APPARENTLY SURPRISED BY HIS NOMINATION--HE WAS ON VACATION--PIRES VELOSO WENT IMMEDIATELY TO OPORTO, FROM WHENCE HE DEPARTED ON A WHIRLWIND HELICOPTER AND AUTOMOBILE TOUR OF NORTHERN UNITS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CORVACHO WILL REVERT TO HIS PERMANENT RANK OF MAJOR AND WILL BE GIVEN AN INSIGNIFICANT POST.

2. RADIO STATIONS ATTACKED: BOMB EXPLODED IN EMISSORA NACIONAL (EN) RADIO STATION IN GUARDA NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 14. EXPLOSION DAMAGED OFFICES AND EQUIPMENT AND KNOCKED OUT STATION'S FM TRANSMITTER. AM SERVICE CONTINUED UNIMPAIRED. SAME NIGHT, 4 ARMED MEN, CLAIMING TO BE FROM OPORTO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, APPEARED AT RADIO CLUB PORTUGUESE TRANSMITTER IN MIRAMAR, NEAR OPORTO, AND DEMANDED THAT STATION BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. WHEN STAFF PHONED OPORTO TO VERIFY THEIR IDENTITIES, ASSAILANTS FLED.

3. LEFTIST DEMONSTRATIONS: THREE DEMONSTRATIONS BY LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN LISBON IN COMING WEEK:

--PCP: ALVARO CUNHAL WILL ADDRESS PCP RALLY SEPTEMBER 16, THEME OF WHICH IS "PCP IN DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION." COMMUNISTS MAKING MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ENSURE LARGE TURNOUT.

--MDP/CDE: MDP/CDE WILL HOLD RALLY SEPTEMBER 17 IN WHICH CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION WILL BE ANALYZED AND PARTY'S POSITION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS DEFINED.

--WORKERS' COMMISSIONS: FORTY WORKERS' COMMISSIONS FROM FIRMS IN LISBON'S INDUSTRIAL BELT HAVE CALLED DEMONSTRATION ON SEPTEMBER 19 TO SHOW THEIR DETERMINATION THAT WORKERS "NOT LOSE CONTROL OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS."

4. PPD ACTIVITIES: THE PPD WILL CONVENE ITS NATIONAL COUNCIL SEPT 27 AND 28. PRINCIPAL TASKS WILL INCLUDE: REVIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PERFORMANCE OF PPD NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONS; ANALYSIS OF CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION; REVISION OF PARTY BYLAWS; AND CONVOCAION OF PPD SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS. BOTH FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL SA CARNEIRO AND CURRENT INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL EMIDIO GUERREIRO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, WHICH COULD BE THE SCENE OF A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO, FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP. OTHER RECENT PPD ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

--GRACA MOURA'S DEFENSE OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL CALL FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF AFM ASSEMBLY AND THE RETURN OF MILITARY TO THE BARRACKS. HE TEMPERED THESE DEMANDS, HOWEVER, BY CLAIMING THAT THEY APPLIED ONLY TO THE CURRENT AFM, THUS INSINUATING THAT A RESTRUCTURED, MORE MODERATE BODY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. GRACA MOURA STRESSED THAT GUERREIRO'S STATEMENT THAT THE PPD WOULD ARM 50,000 MEN WAS NOT PARTY POLICY, BUT THE "EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY" OF GUERREIRO HIMSELF.

--PPD RALLY IN POMBAL. SEPT 14 RALLY WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED SPEAKERS WHO HEARD PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS MAGALHAES MOTA AND MOTA PINTO. SPEAKING OF THE ANGOLAN REFUGEE TRAGEDY. MOTA HINTED OF A POSSIBLE INQUEST INTO THE DECOLONIZATION FAILURE AND CALLED FOR NATIONAL GENEROSITY FOR THE REFUGEES.

5. SPINOLA RETURNS TO RIO: SEPT 15 LISBON MORNING PRESS REPORTED SPINOLA'S DEPARTURE FOR BRAZIL ON SEPT 13. ALSO REPORTED WERE SPINOLA'S WARNING TO NBC TELEVISION INTERVIEWERS THAT PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS WOULD USE CONFUSION IN PORTUGAL TO THEIR ADVANTAGE AND HIS AFFIRMATION THAT PORTUGUESE WISH TO BE GOVERNED BY WESTERN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

6. J-5 TAPES ROBBED: TAPE RECORDINGS OF ALL THE SESSIONS OF THE AFM ASSEMBLIES AS WELL AS OF OTHER IMPORTANT MILITARY MEETINGS HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THEIR STORAGE SITES IN VARIOUS J-5 BUILDINGS. THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT THE THEFT WAS PROMPTED BY A DESIRE TO PREVENT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE, OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF FALSIFYING THE TAPES SO AS TO PROTECT OR INCRIMINATE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN THE FUTURE.

7. COMMENT: QUICK MOVE BY PIRES VELOSO TO TAKE CHARGE OF HIS NEW COMMAND SHOULD ACT TO REDUCE POSSIBLE BUILDUP OF OPPOSITION FROM DISSIDENT ELEMENTS WITHIN NORTHERN REGION
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MILITARY COMMAND. OBLIVION APPARENTLY IN STORE FOR CORVACHO IS INDICATION OF INCREASED STRENGTH OF ANTI-COMMUNISTS WITHIN ARMED FORCES AND ARMY IN PARTICULAR.

8. DESPITE REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC USED TO CONVOKE THIS WEEK'S PCP-INSPIRED RALLIES, ONE DETECTS TRACE OF RESIGNATION TO FACT COMMUNISTS MUST NOW COME TO GRIPS WITH NEW POLITICAL REALITY IN WHICH THEY DO NOT HOLD ALL THE TRUMPS. PCP MUST REASSESS BOTH ITS TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC POSITIONS. THE RECENT VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY AN EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION AND THE DECISION LAST WEEK BY THE PCP TO RETURN TO PRE-AGENDA DEBATES ON TOPICS OF NATIONAL INTEREST IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE SIGNS THAT SUCH A REASSESSMENT MAY BE UNDERWAY.

9. INTERNAL DISSENSION AT THE TOP ECHELONS OF THE PARTY CONTINUES TO HAMPER THE PPD AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE PARTY PLAYING LESS THAN ITS FULL ROLE ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE. THE MEETING OF THE PARTY'S NATIONAL COMMISSION MAY BE A NECESSARY STEP TOWARD RESOLVING THESE DIFFERENCES, BUT IN THE SHORT-TERM AT LEAST THE MEETING WILL LIKELY ONLY LEAD TO FURTHER RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN THE SA CARNEIRO AND GUERREIRO FACTIONS OF THE PARTY.

10. THE "ROBBERY" AT J-5 HAS BEEN BILLED BY SOME AS ANOTHER "WATERGATE." POSSESSION OF TAPES OF INTERNAL AFM DELIBERATIONS COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL WEAPON FOR EITHER LEFT OR RIGHT IN THE CURRENT VOLATILE SITUATION.

11. ATTACKS ON RADIO STATIONS, MUST BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE ACTS OF THE ELP OR MDLP. WE BELIEVE THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE LARGE POTENTIAL FOR TYPE TROUBLEMAKING THAT COULD BE BIG BOOST TO COMMUNISTS AND THEIR ALLIES. DATT IS REPORTING SEPARATELY RECENT INDICATION THAT SEPT 20 MAY BE DATE FOR AN MDLP SPECTACULAR.
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